



National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

DRAFT GENERAL PERMIT FACT SHEET for

Hydrostatic Testing Water Discharges

NPDES Permit No. ING670000

June 1, 2012

Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Office of Water Quality
100 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
www.idem.IN.gov

Existing Permit Information:	<p><u>Permit Number:</u> ING670000 (Master General Permit). Existing facilities permitted under 327 IAC 15-11 will retain their existing general permit tracking numbers, and new permitted facilities will have tracking numbers using same numbering protocol (ING670xxx).</p> <p><u>Expiration Date:</u> Under 327 IAC 15-11, each permitted facility has a unique expiration date based upon five (5) years from when coverage commences. Under this general permit all permitted facilities will have the same expiration date.</p>
Source Location:	State-wide
Receiving Stream:	All waters of the state of Indiana, except for Outstanding State Resource Waters, Exceptional Use Streams, and Outstanding National Resource Waters
Proposed Action:	New administrative NPDES general permit to replace existing NPDES general permit-by-rule (327 IAC 15-11)
Source Category	NPDES Minor – Industrial
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The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (also referred to as The Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), which was enacted in 1972, provides that the discharge of pollutants to the waters of the United States from any point source is unlawful, unless the discharge is in compliance with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The primary condition determining eligibility is ensuring that the discharge consists of only wastewater from hydrostatic testing of commercial pipeline(s). Dischargers who meet the eligibility requirements may apply for coverage by this NPDES general permit, instead of seeking coverage under an individual NPDES permit. In most cases, general permits have a five year life span. Coverage under a general permit is typically for the life of the permit but may be year-to-year.

Development of a Fact Sheet for NPDES permits is required by Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 124.8 and 124.56. This document fulfills the requirements established in those regulations by providing the information necessary to inform the public of actions proposed by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) as outlined in 40 CFR 122.28 and 327 IAC 5-3-8.

A. Description of Category:

The purpose of this general permit is to regulate the discharge of wastewater associated with hydrostatic testing of commercial pipelines so that the public health, existing uses, and aquatic biota are protected. “Wastewater discharge associated with hydrostatic testing of commercial pipelines” means the discharge from a conveyance used for collecting and conveying wastewater which is directly related to commercial pipelines. This includes discharge of water used for hydrostatic testing of new or used pipelines. A “commercial pipeline” is a pipeline, generally underground, that transports petroleum or natural gas.

NPDES general permits are developed and issued to cover multiple facilities engaged in the same process category instead of an individual facility within the State of Indiana. IDEM first developed a general NPDES permit-by-rule (327 IAC 15-11) for discharges of hydrostatic test water in 1994. As a result of statutory changes to Indiana law in 2011, IDEM is now changing its method of administering NPDES general permits by changing from a permit-by-rule format to an administrative format which utilizes a “master general permit” (EPA terminology) which will be renewed and reevaluated on a five-year interval. Persons who seek coverage under the master general permit will continue to be assigned permit tracking numbers beginning with “ING67” but coverage under the general permit will be limited to the permit term established in the master general permit once it is issued.

As such, the discharges generally require the same effluent limitations and monitoring requirements. As of May 2012, there are approximately 7 facilities which are currently regulated under 327 IAC 15-11. Since the permit requirements for all these discharges are similar and because of the number of such dischargers, it is the opinion of IDEM that this category of sources is controlled more appropriately under a NPDES general permit rather than under individual permits. These discharges are similar in several ways, they:

- 1) are comprised solely of hydrostatic test water discharges;
- 2) originate from metallic or PVC pipelines; and
- 3) are intended for future transport or have previously transported or contained petroleum or petroleum-derived gases or liquids.

B. Geographic area covered:

This general permit is intended to potentially cover any discharge of hydrostatic test water from a commercial pipeline within the boundaries of the state of Indiana, except as denoted herein.

C. Receiving waters:

This general permit will authorize discharges to all waters of the State of Indiana, except for Outstanding State Resource Waters, Exceptional Use Streams, and Outstanding National Resource Waters. Dischargers to these receiving waters are required to obtain an individual NPDES permit to regulate their discharges.

D. Exclusions from general permit coverage

Discharges covered under this general permit will be from primarily industrial facilities with discharges solely comprised of wastewater from hydrostatic testing of commercial pipelines. This general permit contains certain specific exclusions from coverage under the general permit which are denoted in Section 1.4 of the permit. In such instances the person will be required to apply for an individual NPDES permit. The following discharges are not authorized by this permit: Process wastewaters; Water from boiler cleaning operations; air compressor condensates; water treated with biocides, (with the exception of chlorides needed for a public water supply); storm water discharges associated with construction or industrial activity; discharges of noncontact cooling water that are regulated under an individual permit; discharges of noncontact cooling water that the Commissioner determines will cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to, violations of water quality standards; discharges that would add loadings of a pollutant that is identified as causing or contributing to the impairment of a water body on the current 303(d) list of impaired waters. discharges to a receiving stream that will result in an increased loading of a pollutant that is given as a cause of degradation to the receiving stream, direct discharges to wetlands, direct discharges into water that are designated as Outstanding State Resource Waters, Exceptional Use Waters, or Outstanding National Resource Waters as defined under 327 IAC 2-1-2, IC 13-18-3-2(u), 327 IAC 2-1-11(b), 327 IAC 2-1.5-4, and 327 IAC 5-2-11.3; discharges which would significantly lower the water quality of the receiving water as defined under 327 IAC 5-2-11.3(b)(1); and discharges containing water treatment additives (WTAs) except for those which have received prior IDEM approval for the particular site.

E. Application for Coverage:

This general permit proposes to provide coverage for any facility with discharges composed entirely of hydrostatic test water which meet the criteria listed in Section A and agree to be regulated under the terms of the general permit.

Each facility seeking coverage under this general permit must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) application. Federal regulations found in 40 CFR 122.21(a) exclude persons covered by general permits from requirements to submit an application for an individual permit. NOI requirements are intended to establish a mechanism that can be used to establish a clear accounting of the number of permittees covered by the general permit, the identities, locations, mailing addresses, and nature of discharge.

F. Great Lakes System Discharger Requirements

If the facility discharges to a water body that has been identified as a water of the state within the Great Lakes system. As such, it is subject to the water quality standards specific to Great Lakes System Dischargers as found in 327 IAC 1-1.5, 327 IAC 5-1.5, and 327 IAC 5-2. These rules, effective as of February 13, 1997, prohibit any action resulting in a significant lowering of water quality unless an antidegradation demonstration has been completed by the permittee and approved by the agency. According to 327 IAC 5-2-11.3(b)(1), a significant lowering of water quality occurs when there is a new or increased loading of a bioaccumulative chemical of concern (BCC) from the permitted facility, or a new or increased permit limit for a non-BCC.

This general permit does not contain any increased permit limits.

G. Antidegradation Evaluation

Wastewater Characterization

The pollutants expected to be discharged to the receiving stream from a new pipeline include Oil and Grease and Total Suspended Solids. The purpose of issuing the NPDES permit to facilities discharging hydrostatic test water from commercial pipelines is to ensure that the discharge to the receiving stream does not result in deleterious effects to aquatic life and is in compliance with 327 IAC 2-1-6 and 327 IAC 2-1.5-8, the minimum surface water quality standards.

The general permit imposes effluent limits based on treatment technology and water quality standards. The effluent limits are not based upon federal effluent guidelines.

The following parameters shall be limited and monitored for facilities regulated by this general permit: flow, total flow, oil and grease, total suspended solids, and pH. Monitoring and limiting these parameters will ensure the proper operation of these systems and the best management practices being employed to control the wastewater being discharged.

Eligibility

"Wastewater discharge associated with hydrostatic testing of commercial pipelines" means the discharge from conveyance, used for collecting and conveying wastewater which is directly related to commercial pipelines. This includes discharge of water used for hydrostatically testing new or existing pipelines.

Pursuant to 327 IAC 15-2-9(b)(1)(A), applicable requirements contained in this article must be adequate to ensure compliance with the water quality standards contained in 327 IAC 2-1, or 327 IAC 2-1.5. Existing commercial pipelines may contain crude petroleum, petroleum refined products and natural gas. Pollutants which have numeric water quality criteria are not expected to be present due to the source and nature of this discharge. If a substance is found to be present in the discharge which shows a reasonable potential to

exceed water quality standards, then that facility will be required to obtain an individual NPDES permit.

Demonstration of a Non-Significant Lowering of Water Quality

In accordance with 5-2-11.3(b)(1)(C)(iii)(AA) and proposed rule 327 IAC 2-1.3-4, a new or increased discharge which only occurs for a short term, temporary period lasting less than 12 months does not constitute a significant lowering of water and is not subject to any further antidegradation review.

H. When to Apply

State NPDES rules require individual permit applications to be filed at least 180 days prior to the commencement of the activity. The current NPDES general permit-by-rule (327 IAC 15-11) allows an NOI to be filed at least fifteen (15) days prior to the commencement of the proposed activity. Under the terms and conditions of this general permit, the following time frames are proposed:

- a) New Facility: For a new facility, an NOI shall be submitted at least 15 days before any discharges of hydrostatic test water.
- b) Existing Facility: For a facility which has existing, effective coverage under the general permit-by-rule (327 IAC 15-11) on the effective date of this general permit, the Commissioner shall automatically grant the facility coverage under this general permit unless one of the following occurs:
 - 1) The permittee notifies IDEM in writing of its intent to terminate general permit coverage in accordance with Section 3.0 of the general permit;
 - 2) The permittee submits an individual NPDES application package to IDEM for the permitted facility. In that case the general permit coverage will remain in effect until the effective date of the individual NPDES permit; or
 - 3) IDEM notifies a permittee of the need to apply for an individual NPDES permit in accordance with 327 IAC 15-2-9 and Section 9.0 of the general permit.

Persons with existing individual NPDES permits that contain hydrostatic test water may request that the individual NPDES permit be revoked or modified to remove the hydrostatic test point source from that existing NPDES permit. A Notice of Intent shall also be submitted with such request. Upon the effective date of revocation or modification of the individual NPDES permit, the general permit shall become applicable to that discharge. For subsequent renewals of general permit coverage under this general permit, an NOI shall be submitted not less than ninety (90) days before the permit expires.

- c) Transfer of Ownership: In the case of a transfer of ownership an NOI must be submitted not less than 30 days before the transfer.

I. Permit Conditions:

1) Current Numeric Permit Limits & Monitoring Requirements

Under State and Federal law and regulations 40 CFR 122.44 and 327 IAC 5, a discharge permit must establish effluent limitations equivalent to best available technology economically achievable (BAT). For some industry categories, such effluent limitations have already been established by the EPA. This is not the case with discharges of hydrostatic test water; thus, IDEM used Best Professional Judgment (BPJ) to choose effluent limitations that meet technology based levels equivalent to BAT.

- a) **Flow** is a standard parameter to be monitored in all NPDES permits. As in the general permit-by-rule, the requirement to report both the monthly average and daily maximum flows for each month has been retained. This parameter is required of all NPDES permits and is included in this permit in accordance with 327 IAC 5-2-13(a)(2).
- b) **Oil and Grease** is a common industrial pollutant and has the potential to be present in hydrostatic test water. The daily maximum effluent limitation for Oil and Grease of 15 mg/l is considered sufficient to ensure compliance with the narrative water quality criteria in 327 IAC 2-1-6(a) and 327 IAC 2-1.5-8 that prohibit a visible oil sheen on receiving waters. The effluent limitations and monitoring requirement for Oil & Grease is the same as that which exists in the current general permit-by-rule, 327 IAC 15-11.
- c) **pH** is included in the general permit to ensure that the discharge will not violate Indiana water quality standards. The proposed limit of 6.0 to 9.0 standard units (s.u.) is in accordance with the Indiana Water Quality Standards (327 IAC 2-1-6 and 327 IAC 2-1.5-8). The effluent limitations and monitoring requirement for pH is the same as that which exists in the current general permit-by-rule, 327 IAC 15-11.
- d) **Total Suspended Solids (TSS)** is limited to a daily maximum of 45 mg/l. This limitation is based on the Best Professional Judgment (BPJ) of the technology and corresponding effluent limitations equivalent to the Best Conventional Treatment (BCT) in accordance with 327 IAC 5-2-10(6). The effluent limitations and monitoring requirements for TSS are the same as that which exists in the current general permit-by-rule, 327 IAC 15-11.

2) Proposed New Monitoring Requirement(s)

Total Flow. An additional reporting requirement is being added to require the permittees to monitor and report the total flow value for the month in units of million gallons (mgal). This requirement has actually been a parameter listed on the Discharge Monitoring Report forms for all NPDES permittees for the past several years, and it is included to assist IDEM in properly assessing the annual permit operating fees set forth under IC 13-18-20.

3) Narrative Water Quality Based Limits

The narrative water quality standards contained in 327 IAC 2-1-6(a)(1) (A)-(E) and 327 IAC 2-1.5-8 have been included in this general permit to ensure that the narrative water quality criteria are met.

4) Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

Monitoring requirements for Flow, Oil & Grease, pH, and TSS are set at 1 x Daily. Grab samples of the Oil & grease, pH, and TSS shall be taken of the hydrostatic test water being discharged as it leaves the pipeline being tested or after receiving treatment at the beginning and at the end of the discharge and two (2) times during the discharge at evenly spaced time intervals. All of the grab samples shall be combined into one (1) composite sample at the end of the test period for analysis.

Total flow volume for the month must be calculated once monthly. The permittee is required to complete and submit federal Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) and state Monthly Monitoring Reports to IDEM containing the results obtained during the previous monitoring period by the 28th day of the month following the monitoring period. Paper copies of DMRs, MMRs, and any communication regarding compliance with the conditions of this general permit which are submitted by mail must be sent to:

Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Office of Water Quality, Mail Code 65-42 CDS
Compliance Data Section
100 N. Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Alternatively permittees may seek and obtain approval from IDEM for electronic submission of Notice of Intent forms, Notice of Termination forms, DMR forms and other report notification requirements. The permittee may enroll in NetDMR program for the electronic submittal of the federal Discharge Monitoring Reports and the state Monthly Monitoring Report forms in lieu of submitting them via U.S. mail. Once approved by IDEM, the permittee may use this process for submitting reports in lieu of submitting paper copies of the reports to IDEM.

J. Spill Response and Reporting Requirement

Spills from the permitted facility meeting the definition of a spill under 327 IAC 2-6.1-4(15), the applicability requirements of 327 IAC 2-6.1-1, and the Reportable Spills requirements of 327 IAC 2-6.1-5 (other than those meeting an exclusion under 327 IAC 2-6.1-3 or the criteria outlined below) are subject to the Reporting Responsibilities of 327 IAC 2-6.1-7.

It should be noted that the reporting requirements of 327 IAC 2-6.1 do not apply to those discharges or exceedances that are under the jurisdiction of an applicable permit when the substance in question is covered by the permit and death or acute injury or illness to

animals or humans does not occur. In order for a discharge or exceedance to be under the jurisdiction of this NPDES permit, the substance in question (a) must have been discharged in the normal course of operation from an outfall listed in this permit, and (b) must have been discharged from an outfall for which the permittee has authorization to discharge that substance.

K. Fees

In accordance with IC 13-18-20-12, any application for a new permit, renewal of a permit, modification of a permit, or variance from a permit requirement must be accompanied by an application fee, which is currently \$50.00 for this type of general permit. Once a person is approved for coverage under a general permit, they are also subject to annual operating fees. These annual fees are set by statute (IC 13-18-20).

L. Re-opener Clauses[s]

General permits may be issued, modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated in accordance with 40 CFR 124.5 and 40 CFR 123.25 either at the request of any interested person (including the permittee) or upon the Commissioner's initiative to incorporate any of the reopening clause provisions cited at 327 IAC 5-2-16.

M. Permit Term

This general permit is proposed to be in effect for a five-year term.

N. Forms, References, and Guidance Documents

The IDEM website will contain information about each of the NPDES general permits, including the issued permit(s), Notice of Intent forms, Notice of Termination Forms, and helpful reference documents to assist the regulated community and the general public. Please refer to:

<http://www.in.gov/idem/4869.htm>